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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
MARVEL COMICS
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE MAN-THING
BEHOLD
HELD OVER FOR 6 WEEKS

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY PAUL JOHNSON

MAN-THING

"BEHOLD THE MAN"
CONCLUSION

WRITER .....SIMON JOWETT
ARTIST .....PAUL JOHNSON
LETTERS .....ELLIE DEVILLE
COLORS .....PAUL JOHNSON

Literary allusions aside, Ted Sallis turns the page in the final chapter to behold ...Man-Thing!

SPIDER-WOMAN

"THE GREAT AMERICAN MALL SHOOT-OUT"
PART 2 OF 3

WRITER .....NEL YOMTOV
PENCILS .....JOHN CZOP
INKS .....TIM DZON
LETTERS .....UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....FRANK LOPEZ

Julia Carpenter/Spider-Woman is coming to terms with her choices as a single mother, super heroine, and media star, and she's about to meet one of her biggest fans.

NEXT ISSUE:

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear MCP,

I have been away from MCP for a long time now but when I saw the Davis Farmer cover with Clan Destine I had to come back, even if for a brief moment. Both the story and art were great even if it was a teaser, and how I hate teasers. When the series comes out you can count on this reader to plop his money into the till.

The other stories were good as well, although I had not read the other parts, especially Shang Chi. Back in the days I had been a big reader of his from before Mike Zeck to after Green. The stories brought back a lot of memories. So much so I hunted down the other parts of the story line.

Will I visit the world of MCP again? I don't know, but this time around it has been enjoyable.

Paul Schleicher
P.O. Box 34
Deer Park, NY 11729-0034

When we get letters like yours, Paul, we can feel that we are doing something right. We hope you'll be back again sometime.

Dear Marvel Readers Present:

I have just read the letter by Andrew Kleswetter in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #163 and would like to comment on it. First and foremost I agree completely with Mr. Kleswetter, and, as to your response, how are younger fans going to know whether or not they like Rocket Raccoon enough to write in, if they have never seen him? Why don't you give him a chance? Just one story, then we'll see if you don't get more letters. I loved Rocket Raccoon and his supporting cast, but I've got one minor complaint. There are no rodents. There were several rodents pictured in Rocket Raccoon's mini-series, but they didn't do anything. Perhaps you could introduce a new character, maybe a mouse, a squirrel, or a muskrat. Whatever you do, I can't wait to see Rocket Raccoon again.

Tim Dutcher
W1252 County T
St. Cloud, WI 53079

Tim, I hope you don't get the idea that we're not huge fans of the ring-tailed one around here, but the truth of the matter is that no writers (and we're loathe to say this, because now we'll be deluged with Rocket Raccoon stories) have come forth with a "*GOOD*" Rocket Raccoon script. We've always felt it was important to have a good solid story, rather than running a story just to feature a certain character.

Dear Marvel Comics Presents,

What to my wondering eyes appears (on the shelf of my local comics shop, in the very pages of MCP) but MAN-THING? This character was always one of my favorites; his bizzarre adventures always meant interesting stories and often beautiful art. Who else could you find sharing adventures with both Howard the Duck and Shang-Chi Master of Kung Fu ? Say, with the recent appearances of both Man-Thing and Shang-Chi, any chance we'll see that little feathered fellow in the pages of MCP? Back to Man-Thing, the art was incredible; it seems obvious that Mr. Johnson used photo reference, but I feel that this realistic style helped to evoke a time and place that I remember quite well. The first installment seems to be an interesting retelling of Man-

(continued on cover three)

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

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MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY REGGIE JONES

VENGEANCE

"OLD-TIME RELIGION"
PART 1

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES.....FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

The Revengers, a street gang that worships Vengeance, are heating things up in the South Central streets of L.A.

TURBO

"CUTTING CLASS"
PART 2 OF 2

WRITER .....EVAN SKOLNICK
PENCILS .....GUY DORIAN
INKS .....JOHN STOKES
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....STEVE WHITAKER

The Pantheon.needs to make sure the Turbo armor is in the right hands.

The artist dedicates this story to Gertrude N. Hoving.

FROM JOSH

Yeah, I like the free comics. I admit that.

But the fact is, it's not that important to me. Being an intern here at Marvel has been the time of my life, and it was an experience I would have paid to have. Everyone understands what kind of an opportunity an internship is. The experience I have obtained with the editorial end of comics production is invaluable, and it made the long, daily commute well worth it. Furthermore (they didn't pay me to say it), I've worked for two great editors, with whom, to my surprise, I've become friends. Richard and Michael took the time not only to show me the inner-workings of the industry, but also to get to know me as a person. As a result, their confidence in me increased, and my responsibilities expanded beyond just making photocopies and sorting the submissions. The occasional freelance projects that I did for them were a great and exciting privilege. I was never treated like a gopher or a personal slave. Not once was I sent to fetch coffee (or tea, for that matter), nor was I ever treated with indifference. I almost always felt like I had something to offer, and that is a rewarding feeling. It's important to feel comfortable with your employers, and I can't imagine a better working atmosphere than that of the M.C.P. office. I feel that I have gotten the most out of this experience, and I recommend it to anyone interested in a career in this industry. I've learned a lot here.

Trust me--the free comics are just a bonus.

Joshua Cohen

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Thing's origin. I can't wait to see where this goes. I also very much liked the Thing story; while the story was a bit overly sentimental I thought the art work was beautiful. I would like to see more of John Ross' work. How about teaming the Thing up with Howard the Duck and having Mr. Ross do the art chores on that as well. I don't care much for Vengeance; the art is sometimes very good and at other times nearly unreadable. Please bring back Shang Chi; the art on his recent series was fantastic and I'd really like to see more of his adventures.

Scott Clark
(Address withheld by request)

Scott, you'll be happy to learn that the folks who brought you the last Shang Chi series are hard at work on another. As far as Howard the Duck appearing in MCP, it's not very likely but you never know. We also agree that John Ross' work on the Thing story was superb. And where Paul Johnson has told us which of his friends modeled for the various characters for the Man-Thing story, he was quite vague on who played the part of the shambling muck monster.

Dear Richard and Michael,

I've been thinking of writing for some time now to give my support to your efforts at improving MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. I think the trend has been towards better artwork and slicker design. Over the past year your covers have been great! I really enjoyed the work of Colin MacNeil, and hope to see more of his work soon; how about getting Colin to do some interior artwork for you as well as covers. Alan Davis' Clan Destine in issue #158 was just enough to wet my whistle for his upcoming series. I also really liked the artwork on the Shang Chi series as well. The reason that I am finally writing is Mariano Nicieza's story Rabbit Stu. Being a fan of long eared lagomorphs myself (particularly the French flop eared variety) I had to write and tell you that I really enjoyed this story, and the wonderful artwork by John Ross as well. As much as I enjoy all the action of Marvel's heroes it is stories like this that show a human compassion that I really enjoy. It is the Ben Grimm I remember best, rock hard on the outside and a big old softy on the inside. Keep up the good work; I'll be watching for more stories like this in the pages of MCP.

James Cody
N. Miami Dr.
Parma OH 44134

Thanks for the letter, James, We hope we can keep providing our readers with "stories" like Rabbit Stu. I think you'll be happy to know that Colin is at his drawing board, and at work on an upcoming feature for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS.

Hey, hey, hey! We got some great news in our office today. Former intern for the EPIC office, and now the one to set color to the Hellfire of our very own version of Vengeance, none other than Ashley Poselia, gave birth to Ezra Mingus Brezina. Born at 10:30 AM August 22nd, and weighing in at 8 lb. 6 oz.

We want to wish the best to Ashley, Ezra and his dad Jason Brezina.

SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS, THE WRITER THOUGHT. NO LIGHTS. NO TRUMPETS. CERTAINLY NO ANGELS.
DARK WATERS RISE AROUND YOU AND ALL YOU FEEL IS RELIEF. THIS IS HOW IT FEELS.
THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO DIE.
FORTY YEARS AGO I FELT IMMORTAL. TWO NOVELS AND THREE PLAYS MADE MY REPUTATION AND EARNED ME A TICKET TO HOLLYWOOD.
IN SIX MONTHS I MADE TEN YEARS' MONEY. I BOUGHT THE HOUSE BECAUSE I COULD AND BECAUSE I WANTED SOMEWHERE TO WRITE MY NEXT NOVEL.
BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS ONE MORE PARTY TO THROW, ONE MORE MORSEL OF GOSSIP TO SAVOR...

BEHOLD
THE MAN
PART THREE
... ONE MORE GUEST TO MEET.

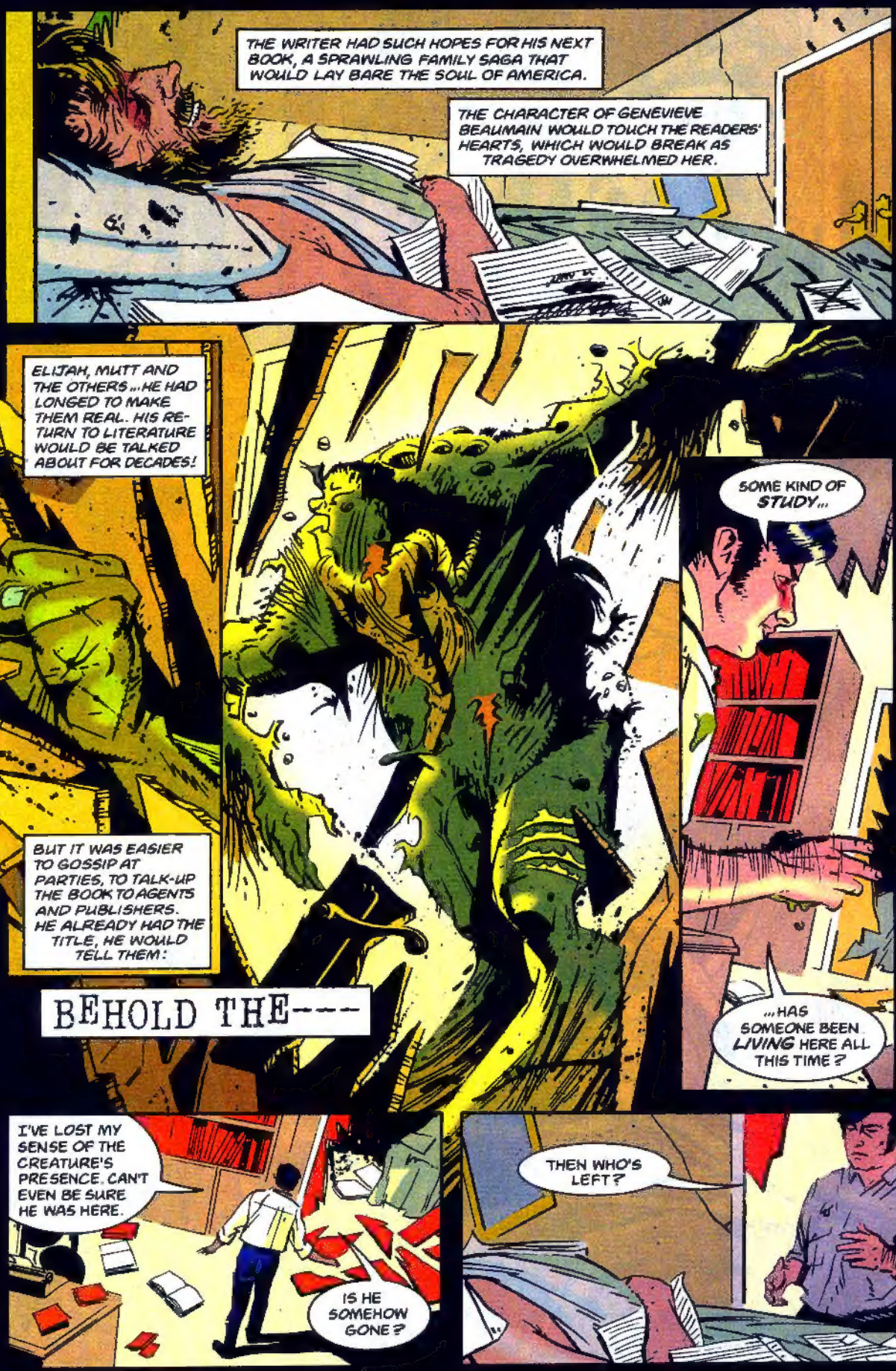
AH!
FEELINGS... IDEAS... VOICES... CHARACTERS... CAGED... FRUSTRATED...
...F-FELT THIS BEFORE... IN THE SWAMP... CREATURE'S MEMORY...

IT'S A MINDLESS THING. IT JUST WANTS TO STOP THE PAIN. IF YOU'RE SCARED WHEN IT TOUCHES YOU, YOU BURN...
...BUT IT DIDN'T TOUCH MARTIN AND HE... HE...

"...THIS PLACE IS DIFFERENT. THE USUAL RULES DON'T APPLY. A MAN CAN ESCAPE THE MONSTER HE HAS BECOME.
"REALITY'S BEING CONTROLLED..."
"...BY A MORE POWERFUL AUTHORITY!"

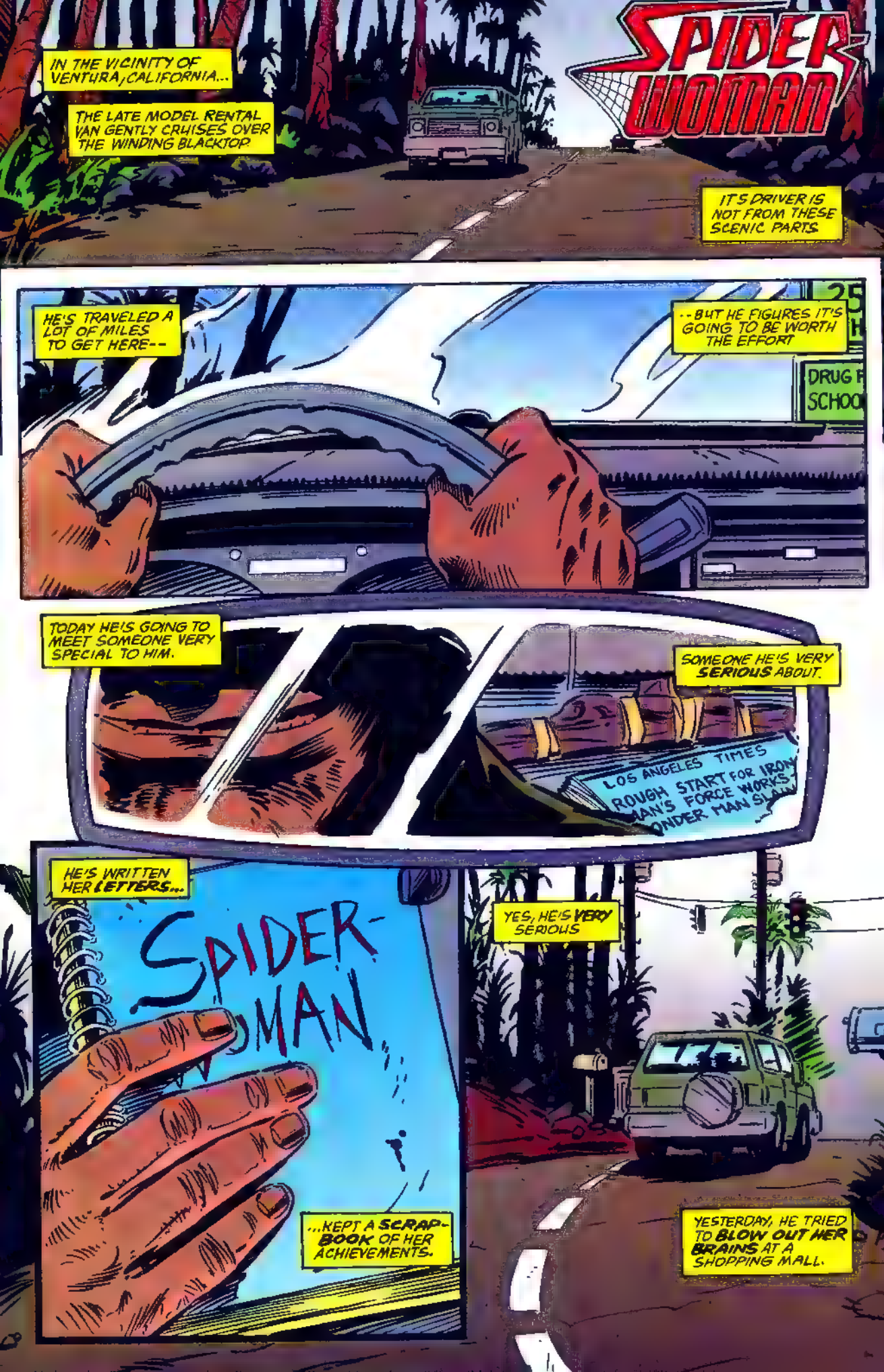
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE WRITER? YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF HIS.
BUT HE'S NOT WRITTEN A WORD IN FORTY YEARS...
...I SUPPOSE EVEN IDEAS CAN FESTER IF THEY DON'T GET AIRED EITHER WAY...
...YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM!
ACID!
THE WRITER'S OURS! WHEN HE WANTED TO WORK WE PROVIDED THE DISTRACTIONS. WHEN HE NEEDED QUIET WE GOSSIPED WITH HIM.
WHEN HE LACKED THE CONFIDENCE TO START, WE OPENED ANOTHER BOTTLE FOR HIM. FOR FORTY YEARS WE SAVED HIM FROM HIMSELF...

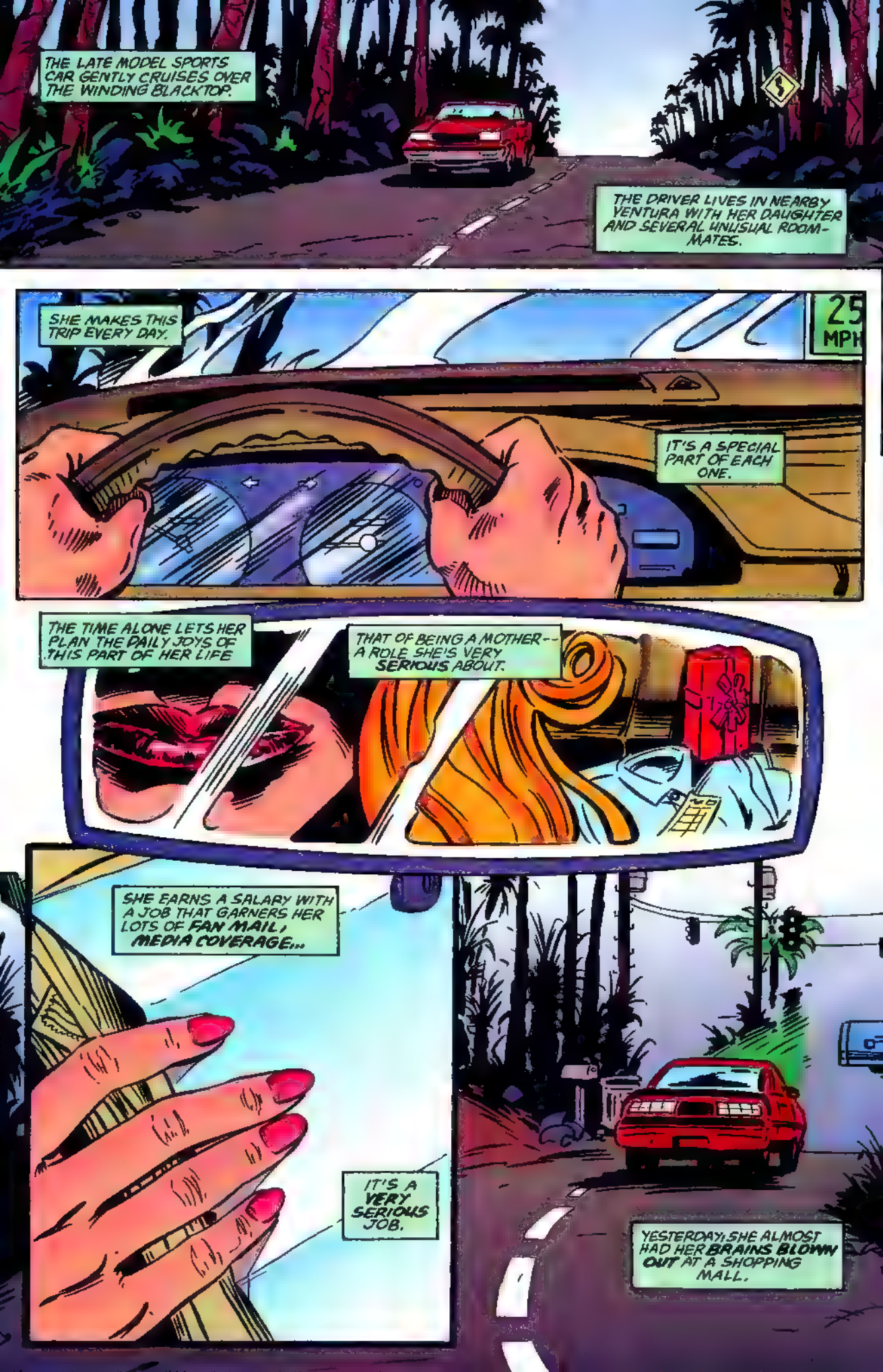
... HE OWES US!
AH!
BLOOD?
NOBODY EVER ENTERED THE EAST WING. GEN, ELIJAH AND THE REST BEHAVED AS IF IT WAS FORBIDDEN. I CAN FEEL WHY FROM HERE ...
"... SO MUCH ANGER. SO MUCH FEAR.
"SO MUCH PAIN."


THE WRITER HAD SUCH HOPES FOR HIS NEXT BOOK, A SPRAWLING FAMILY SAGA THAT WOULD LAY BARE THE SOUL OF AMERICA.
THE CHARACTER OF GENEVIEVE BEAUMAIN WOULD TOUCH THE READERS' HEARTS, WHICH WOULD BREAK AS TRAGEDY OVERWHELMED HER.
ELIJAH, MUTT AND THE OTHERS... HE HAD LONGED TO MAKE THEM REAL. HIS RETURN TO LITERATURE WOULD BE TALKED ABOUT FOR DECADES!
BUT IT WAS EASIER TO GOSSIP AT PARTIES, TO TALK-UP THE BOOK TO AGENTS AND PUBLISHERS. HE ALREADY HAD THE TITLE, HE WOULD TELL THEM:
BEHOLD THE---
SOME KIND OF STUDY...
...HAS SOMEONE BEEN LIVING HERE ALL THIS TIME?
I'VE LOST MY SENSE OF THE CREATURE'S PRESENCE. CAN'T EVEN BE SURE HE WAS HERE.
IS HE SOMEHOW GONE?
THEN WHO'S LEFT?

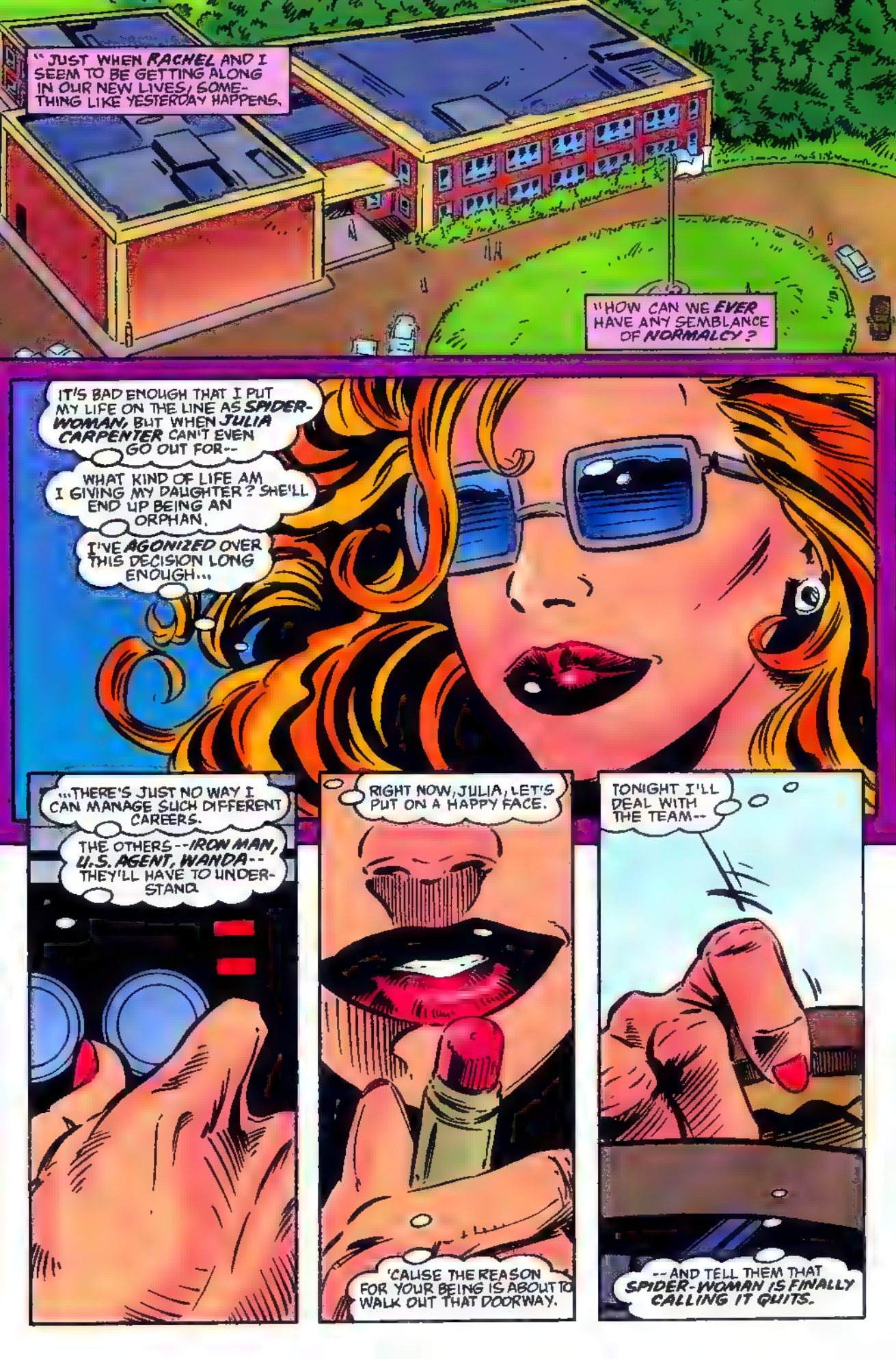
THESE ... THESE PAPERS ARE NOTES... FALSE STARTS ... FOR A STORY ... A NOVEL ...
ELIJAH ... MARTIN ... GENEVIEVE ... THEY'RE ALL HERE. JUST CHARACTERS... CREATIONS OF YOUR MIND.
IF YOU CREATED HER ONCE, YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN!
GIVE GENEVIEVE BACK ...
...to me.
STILL WARM! BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE THREE MONTHS TO DIE. EVEN TIME HERE WAS AN ILLUSION! THREE MONTHS CREATED AT THE INSTANT OF DEATH.
THE WISH-FULFILLMENT OF A BLOCKED WRITER, ALL OF IT...
...BUT NOT ME!
"SALLIS!"
"TED SALLIS!"
I AM TED SALLIS!

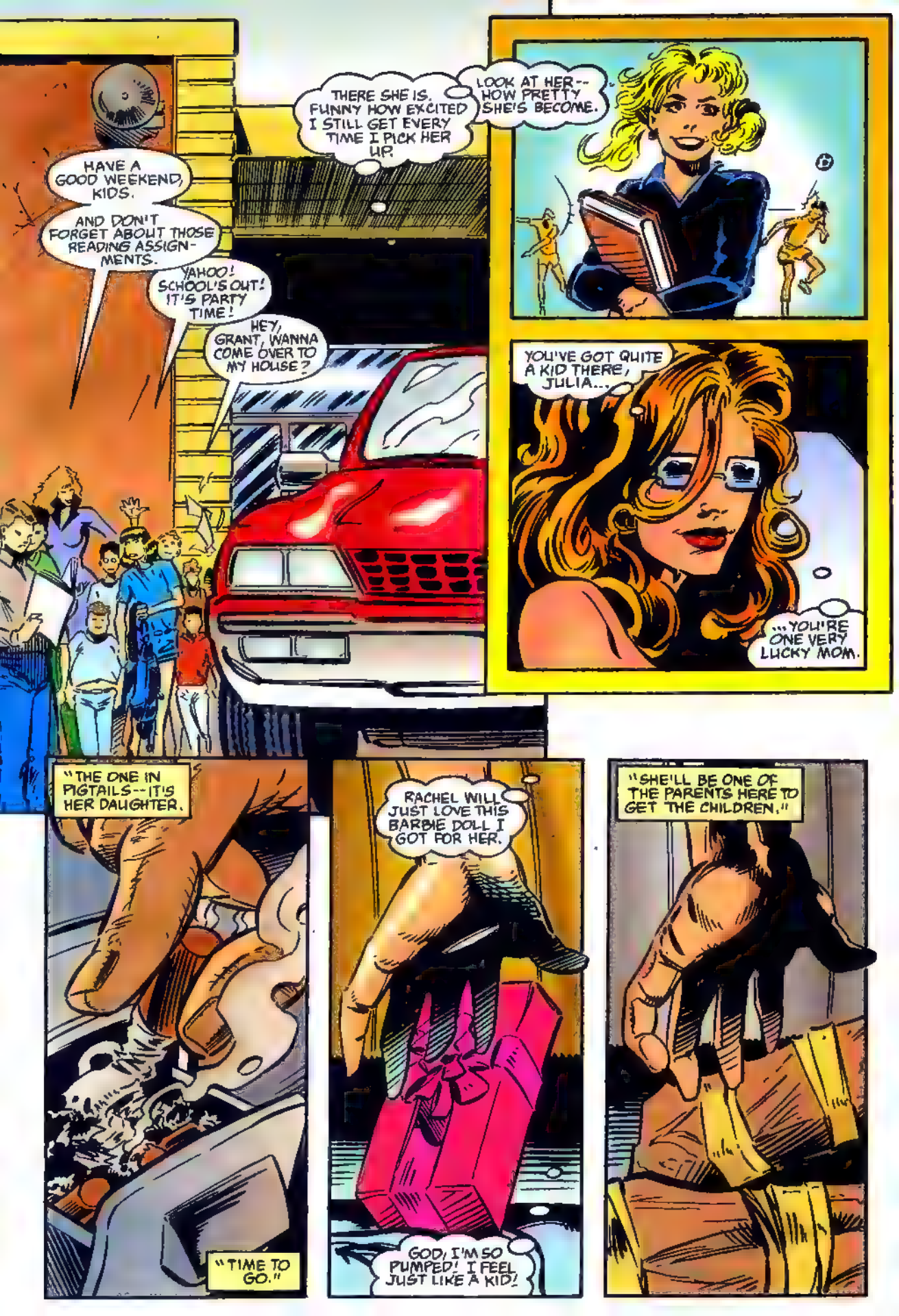
SALLIS...
I...AM...
THE END

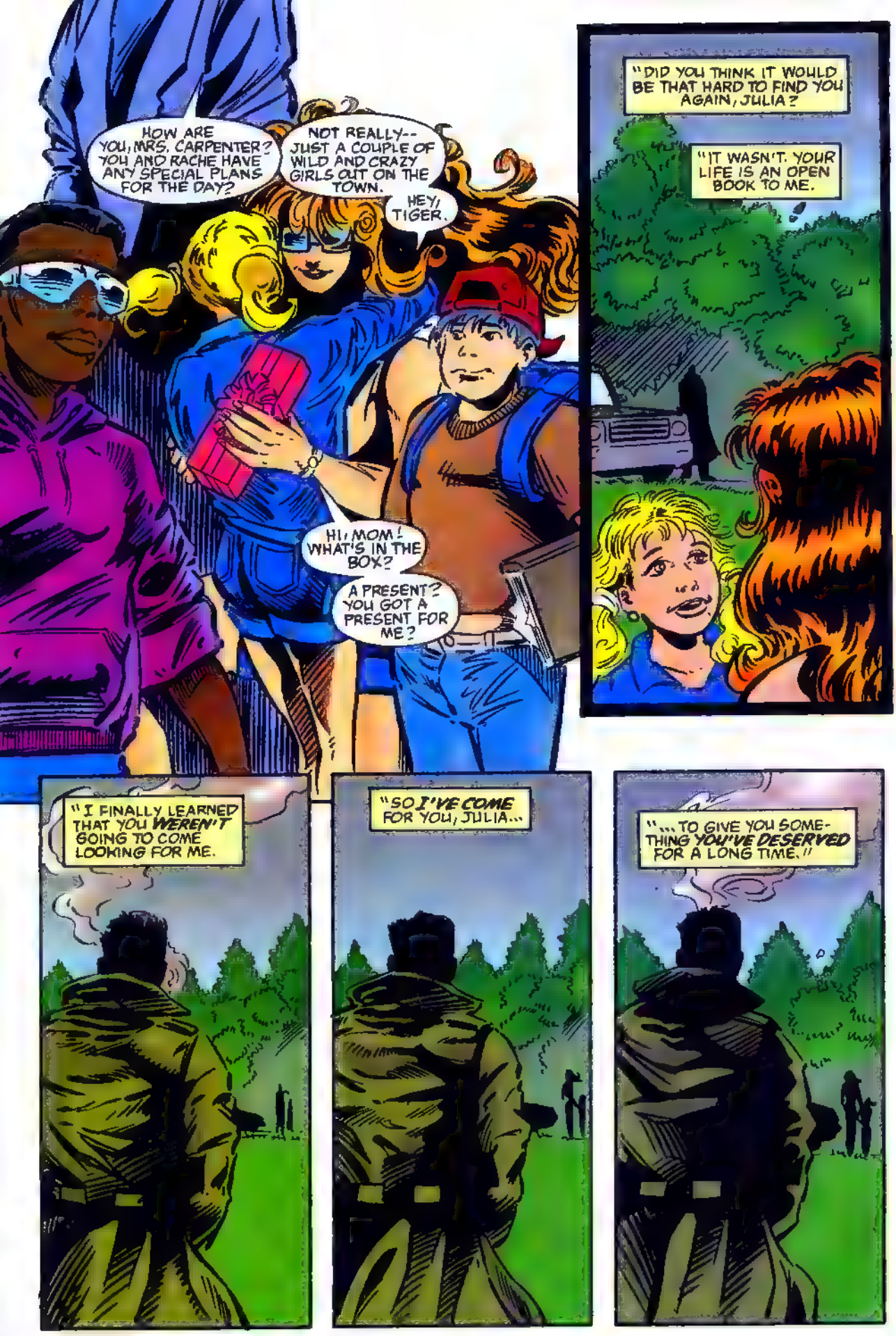

SPIDER-WOMAN
IN THE VICINITY OF VENTURA, CALIFORNIA...
THE LATE MODEL RENTAL VAN GENTLY CRUISES OVER THE WINDING BLACKTOP.
IT'S DRIVER IS NOT FROM THESE SCENIC PARTS.
HE'S TRAVELED A LOT OF MILES TO GET HERE--
--BUT HE FIGURES IT'S GOING TO BE WORTH THE EFFORT
DRUG
SCHOO
TODAY HE'S GOING TO MEET SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL TO HIM.
SOMEONE HE'S VERY SERIOUS ABOUT.
LOS ANGELES TIMES
ROUGH START FOR IRON MAN'S FORCE WORKS
UNDER MAN SLAIN
HE'S WRITTEN HER LETTERS...
SPIDER-WOMAN
...KEPT A SCRAP-BOOK OF HER ACHIEVEMENTS.
YES, HE'S VERY SERIOUS
YESTERDAY, HE TRIED TO BLOW OUT HER BRAINS AT A SHOPPING MALL.


THE LATE MODEL SPORTS CAR GENTLY CRUISES OVER THE WINDING BLACKTOP.
THE DRIVER LIVES IN NEARBY VENTURA WITH HER DAUGHTER AND SEVERAL UNUSUAL ROOM-MATES.
SHE MAKES THIS TRIP EVERY DAY.
25 MPH
IT'S A SPECIAL PART OF EACH ONE.
THE TIME ALONE LETS HER PLAN THE DAILY JOYS OF THIS PART OF HER LIFE
THAT OF BEING A MOTHER--A ROLE SHE'S VERY SERIOUS ABOUT.
SHE EARNS A SALARY WITH A JOB THAT GARNERS HER LOTS OF FAN MAIL, MEDIA COVERAGE...
IT'S A VERY SERIOUS JOB.
YESTERDAY, SHE ALMOST HAD HER BRAINS BLOWN OUT AT A SHOPPING MALL.

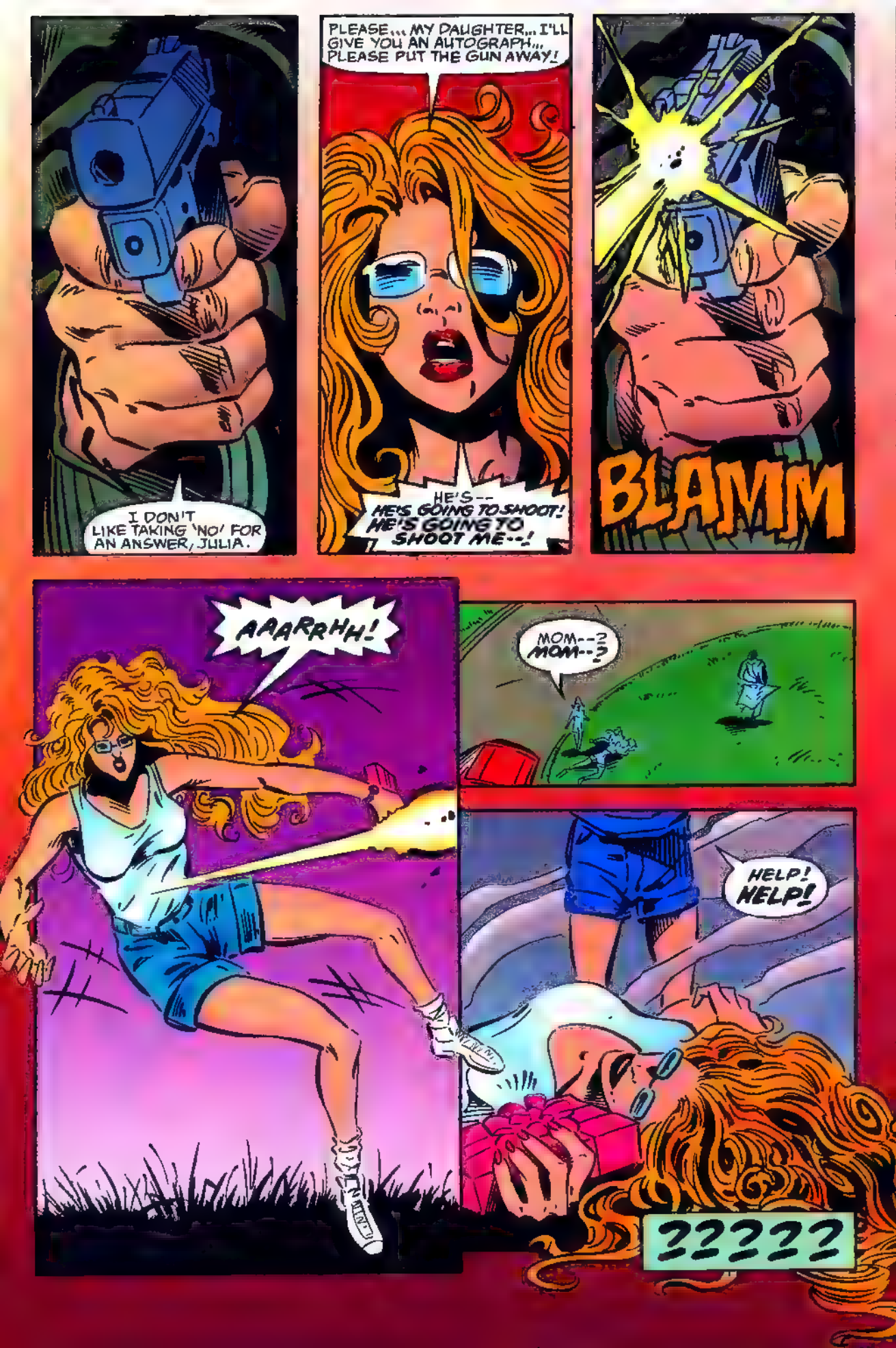
"I KNOW YOU, JULIA
"THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, THE MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS, THE TV APPEARANCES...
"I'M CLOSER TO YOU THAN I AM TO ANYONE.
"BUT YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
"YOU GOT MY LETTERS-- YOU READ THEM.
"I'VE SHARED MYSELF WITH YOU.
"BUT YOU WOULDN'T. YOU IGNORED ME.
"THAT USED TO MAKE ME VERY ANGRY."
FINAL ENTRY
SOON I WILL SEE JULIA FOR THE LAST TIME
SHE WILL NEVER KNOW HOW HAPPY SHE COULD HAVE


"JUST WHEN RACHEL AND I SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG IN OUR NEW LIVES, SOMETHING LIKE YESTERDAY HAPPENS.
"HOW CAN WE EVER HAVE ANY SEMBLANCE OF NORMALCY?
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE AS SPIDER-WOMAN, BUT WHEN JULIA CARPENTER CAN'T EVEN GO OUT FOR--
WHAT KIND OF LIFE AM I GIVING MY DAUGHTER? SHE'LL END UP BEING AN ORPHAN.
I'VE AGONIZED OVER THIS DECISION LONG ENOUGH...
...THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN MANAGE SUCH DIFFERENT CAREERS.
THE OTHERS--IRON MAN, U.S. AGENT, WANDA--THEY'LL HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.
RIGHT NOW, JULIA, LET'S PUT ON A HAPPY FACE.
'CAUSE THE REASON FOR YOUR BEING IS ABOUT TO WALK OUT THAT DOORWAY.
TONIGHT I'LL DEAL WITH THE TEAM--
--AND TELL THEM THAT SPIDER-WOMAN IS FINALLY CALLING IT QUITS.


HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND, KIDS.
AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THOSE READING ASSIGNMENTS.
YAHOO! SCHOOL'S OUT! IT'S PARTY TIME!
HEY, GRANT, WANNA COME OVER TO MY HOUSE?
THERE SHE IS. FUNNY HOW EXCITED I STILL GET EVERY TIME I PICK HER UP.
LOOK AT HER-- HOW PRETTY SHE'S BECOME.
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A KID THERE, JULIA...
...YOU'RE ONE VERY LUCKY MOM.
"THE ONE IN PIGTAILS--IT'S HER DAUGHTER.
"TIME TO GO."
RACHEL WILL JUST LOVE THIS BARBIE DOLL I GOT FOR HER.
GOD, I'M SO PUMPED! I FEEL JUST LIKE A KID!
"SHE'LL BE ONE OF THE PARENTS HERE TO GET THE CHILDREN."


HOW ARE YOU, MRS. CARPENTER? YOU AND RACHE HAVE ANY SPECIAL PLANS FOR THE DAY?
NOT REALLY-- JUST A COUPLE OF WILD AND CRAZY GIRLS OUT ON THE TOWN.
HEY, TIGER.
HI, MOM! WHAT'S IN THE BOX?
A PRESENT? YOU GOT A PRESENT FOR ME?
"DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE THAT HARD TO FIND YOU AGAIN, JULIA?
"IT WASN'T. YOUR LIFE IS AN OPEN BOOK TO ME.
"I FINALLY LEARNED THAT YOU *WEREN'T* GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR ME.
"SO *I'VE COME* FOR YOU, JULIA...
"...TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING *YOU'VE DESERVED* FOR A LONG TIME."

WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT I GOT YOU.
HERE, RACHE, OPEN IT UP.
I'LL OPEN IT IN THE CAR, MOM.
SUIT YOURSELF, SWEETIE--
--BUT LET'S GET A MOVE ON-- I'M STARVING!
EXCUSE ME...
...JULIA... UH, SPIDER-WOMAN...
WHA--? WHERE DID YOU COME FR--?
...MAY I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
S-SORRY TO BE RUDE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET--
WHA--?
MOMMY!
YOU NEVER DID HAVE TIME FOR ME, JULIA, DID YOU?


I DON'T LIKE TAKING 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER, JULIA.
PLEASE... MY DAUGHTER... I'LL GIVE YOU AN AUTOGRAPH... PLEASE PUT THE GUN AWAY!
HE'S-- HE'S GOING TO SHOOT! HE'S GOING TO SHOOT ME--!
BLAMM
AAARRHH!
MOM--? MOM--?
HELP! HELP!
22222

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187
VENGEANCE TURBO
SPIDER-WOMAN MAN
NG
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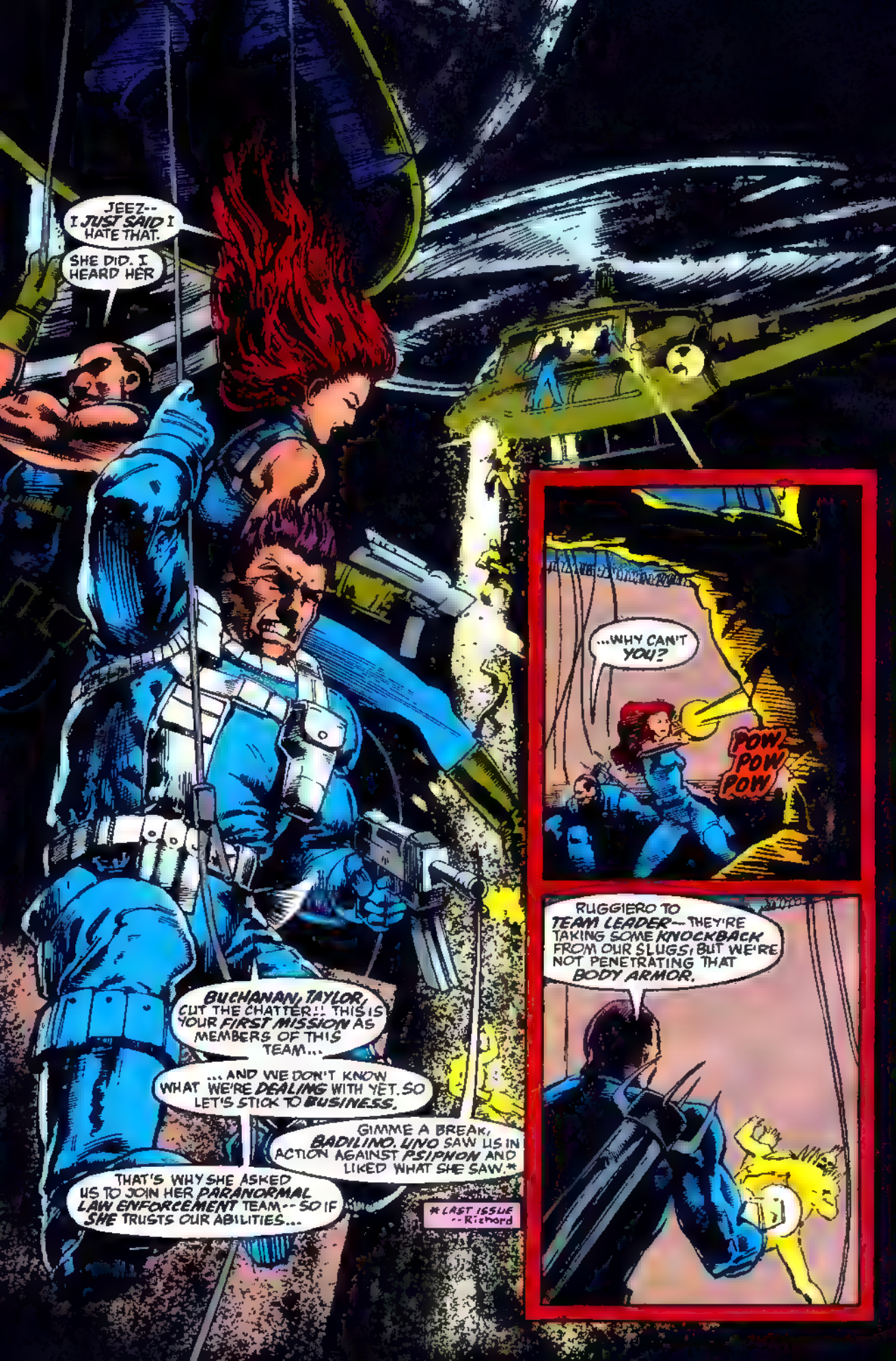
VENGEANCE
Old Time Religion
DEMONS, PEOPLE! DEMONS WALK AMONG US!
ISN'T THAT THE LORD'S TRUTH, WENDY SUE?
AMEN!
I SAY, IS THAT NOT THE LORD'S TRUTH?
AMEN, REVEREND!
SO I ASK MYSELF, "REVEREND NICE, WHAN CAN YOU DO TO STOP THESE DEMONS MASQUERADING AS HEROES?
"WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SAVE THE MISGUIDED SOULS WHO WORSHIP FALSE DEMONS?
"...THOSE WHO EMULATE THEIR WICKED WAYS?

"FOR EVEN AS I SPEAK, DEMON WORSHIPPERS ARE BRINGING THEIR EVIL TO THE STREETS!"
THE SOUTH-CENTRAL SECTION OF L.A.
THE STREET TOUGHS WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE WAR MACHINES ARE LEARNING THERE'S A NEW GANG IN TOWN...
...A GANG THAT WANTS VENGEANCE FOR THE RIOTS THAT SWEPT L.A.
AAIEEE!
FWOOSH
SOUTH CENTRAL AUDIO
SPACE FOR RENT

...A GANG THAT SHOWS AS LITTLE MERCY WITH THEIR WRIST-MOUNTED FLAME-THROWERS AS THEY SHOW ON THE FAMILIAR FACE OF THEIR MASKS...
WAR MASHERS
...A GANG APTLY NAMED-- REVENGERS!
YOU COME INTO OUR 'HOOD.. ROAST MY POSSE.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
YOU'RE GONNA DIE FOR THIS, MAN! YOU'RE GONNA--
Ping Ping Ping
--DIE...
OH, SOMEONE'S GONNA DIE, ALL RIGHT, "BRO"...
TCHIK
--GUESS WHO!
UGH. I DETEST GUESSING GAMES.
WHO--?!

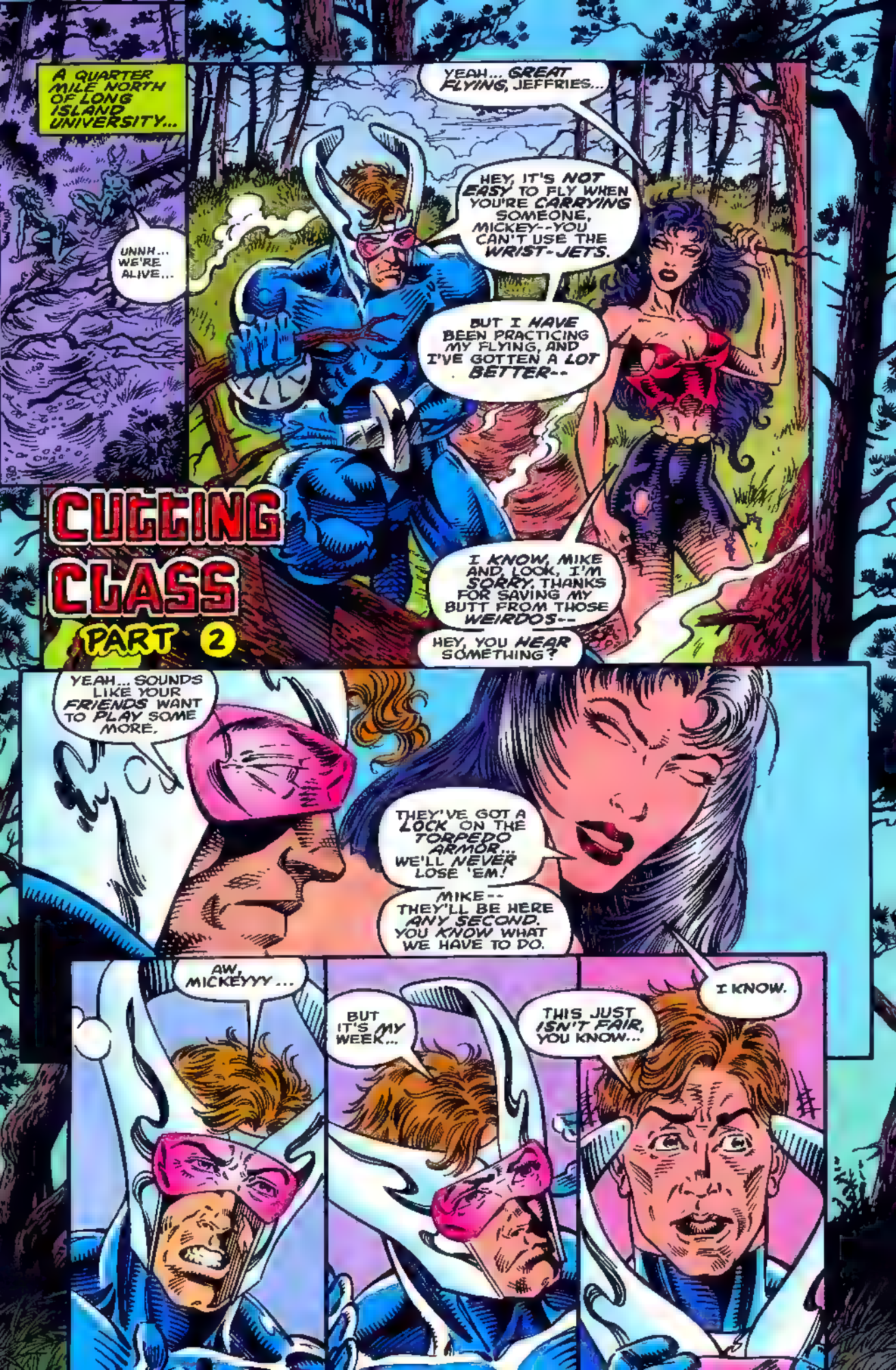

JEEZ-- I JUST SAID I HATE THAT.
SHE DID. I HEARD HER
BUCHANAN, TAYLOR, CUT THE CHATTER!! THIS IS YOUR FIRST MISSION AS MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM...
...AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH YET. SO LET'S STICK TO BUSINESS.
GIMME A BREAK, BADILINO. UNO SAW US IN ACTION AGAINST PSIPHON AND LIKED WHAT SHE SAW.*
THAT'S WHY SHE ASKED US TO JOIN HER PARANORMAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM-- SO IF SHE TRUSTS OUR ABILITIES...
*LAST ISSUE --Richard
...WHY CAN'T YOU?
POW POW POW
RUGGIERO TO TEAM LEADER-- THEY'RE TAKING SOME KNOCKBACK FROM OUR SLUGS, BUT WE'RE NOT PENETRATING THAT BODY ARMOR.

BUCHANAN HERE, TEAM LEADER. THESE GUYS LOOK SORT OF FAMILIAR, EH?
MAYBE MY EXORCIST GUN WILL DO THE SAME DAMAGE TO THEM AS IT DOES TO VENGEANCE.
UUNGH!
ZRAAKOW
NOPE. THEY'RE NOT SO-CALLED "MYSTICAL".
BUT THE IMPACT CRACKED THE ARMOR AND KNOCKED THE--
--FIGHT OUT OF HIM.
RAARGH!
WHAT THE--?! A SECOND AGO HE WAS NEARLY OUT COLD... NOW HE'S HULKED OUT TO TWICE HIS SIZE.
"THEY'RE ALL BEEFING UP-- GOING WILD!"
FALL BACK! FALL B-AARGH!
BADILINO, HELP!
BADILINO?!
D-DID MY ACTIONS AS VENGEANCE INSPIRE THESE MADMEN?!
THEN IT'S UP TO ME TO STOP THEM-- PEACEFULLY, IF I CAN!

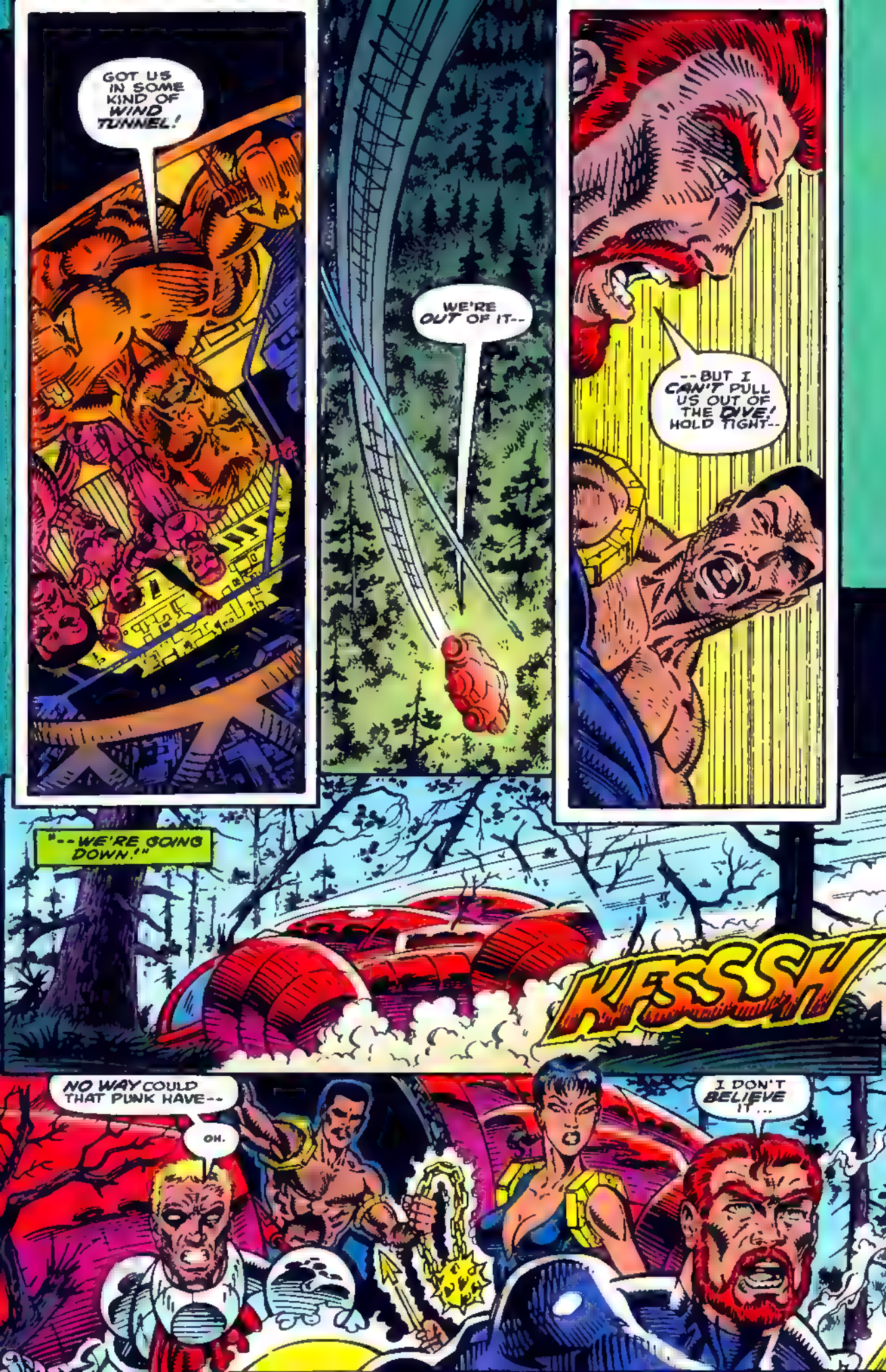
THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE WILL OF VENGEANCE WILL PAY THE FINAL PRICE--NOW!
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER CHECK WITH ME FIRST.
VENGEANCE?
VROOM
O LORD, WE HAVE FAILED YOU! WE HAVEN'T SLAUGHTERED THE INFIDELS QUICK ENOUGH.
WE ARE UNWORTHY! DESTROY US WITH THY SACRED HELLFIRE!
SICK, TWISTED SCUM. I'LL GLADLY--
NO. THAT'S NOT MY WAY. NOT ANYMORE. I HAVE TO MAKE THEM SEE THAT.
SLAUGHTER DOESN'T MAKE YOU WORTHY-- NOT YOU, ME OR ANYBODY ELSE.
IF YOU'RE TRULY FOLLOWING MY EXAMPLE, THEN YOU'LL LET THE HUNGER FOR VIOLENCE GO.
LIAR! IMPOSTER!!
YOU SEE, MY FRIENDS?! THE REAL VENGEANCE WOULD HAVE TORCHED ME BY NOW FOR EVEN DARING TO--
ZRAAAP
UUUNNGH!

O.K., FOLKS, LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, SHALL WE? I'M WAR MACHINE--
--THE ORIGINAL.
ACCORDING TO THE NEWS BULLETINS, YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN RAISING QUITE A RUCKUS.
AND IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WHO'S THE RINGLEADER HERE, ISN'T IT?
I'D RATHER END THIS QUICKLY.
ZRAKOOM
YOU IDIOT! ARE YOU THAT ANXIOUS FOR A FIGHT? BECAUSE I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU!
YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU, VENGEANCE, OR GHOST RIDER, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF
YOU DON'T FIGHT--YOU KILL.

KILL HIM, VENGEANCE!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE IN L.A. WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THESE PEOPLE TO MAKE THEM MUSCLEBOUND MANIACS... BUT IT ENDS HERE!
KILL HIM!
KILL HIM!
THIS IS THE VENGEANCE WHO INSPIRED US-- THE BEING WHO BATTLES TIRELESSLY AND SAVAGELY.
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! I'M BEING SUCKED INTO THE VIOLENCE... PULLED INTO THE BLOODSHED I WANTED TO LEAVE BEHIND!
I'VE GOT TO SHOW THE REVENGERS A BETTER WAY...
...BUT HOW DO I DO THAT, WITHOUT BEING DESTROYED BY WAR MACHINE?!
OH, THIS IS PRICELESS.
ONE OR THE OTHER OF THEM IS GOING DOWN-- AND IF I'M LUCKY IT'LL BE BOTH!
TO BE CONTINUED...


A QUARTER MILE NORTH OF LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY...
UNNH... WE'RE ALIVE...
YEAH... GREAT FLYING, JEFFRIES...
HEY, IT'S NOT EASY TO FLY WHEN YOU'RE CARRYING SOMEONE, MICKEY--YOU CAN'T USE THE WRIST-JETS.
BUT I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING MY FLYING, AND I'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER--
CUTTING CLASS
PART 2
I KNOW, MIKE AND, LOOK, I'M SORRY. THANKS FOR SAVING MY BUTT FROM THOSE WEIRDOS--
HEY, YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
YEAH... SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FRIENDS WANT TO PLAY SOME MORE.
THEY'VE GOT A LOCK ON THE TORPEDO ARMOR... WE'LL NEVER LOSE 'EM!
MIKE-- THEY'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND. YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.
AW, MICKEYYY...
BUT IT'S MY WEEK...
THIS JUST ISN'T FAIR, YOU KNOW...
I KNOW.

THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE PANTHEON...
...AND WHEN IT COMES TO SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN RACE, THEY DON'T GIVE UP EASILY!
--I CAN'T BELIEVE A COUPLE OF KIDS COULD END UP WITH SOMETHING AS DANGEROUS AS THE TORPEDO ARMOR!
STILL CAN'T GET THE SENSOR LOCK BACK ON HIM--
--THERE! POSITIVE LOCK!
IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHAT THEY'RE PLAYING WITH--
KIDS PLAY WITH FIRE, ATALANTA--
--TILL THEY GET BURNED!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT-- LOOK AT HIS AIR SPEED!
THAT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT! BRACE YOURSELVES!
HE'S ON A COLLISION COURSE--AT SUPERSONIC SPEED!
ATTEMPTING EVASIVE MANEUVERS
FWOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH


GOT US IN SOME KIND OF WIND TUNNEL!
WE'RE OUT OF IT--
--BUT I CAN'T PULL US OUT OF THE DIVE! HOLD TIGHT--
"--WE'RE GOING DOWN!"
KFSSSH
NO WAY COULD THAT PUNK HAVE--
OH.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

BETTER BELIEVE IT, FREAKS...

...'CAUSE YOU'RE FACING THE REAL TURBO NOW!

GREAT.

SHLOOM!

WELL, SHE SURE KNOWS HOW TO RUN AWAY...

YOU KNOW, ONE OF THESE DAYS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO RECRUIT A FLYING MEMBER OF THE PANTHEON.

ULYSSES, ANY CHANCE OF THE AIRSHIP--

--CATCHING HER? I WOULDN'T THINK--

WHU BOOOOM!

SOUND BARRIER'S A REAL PAIN, HUH?

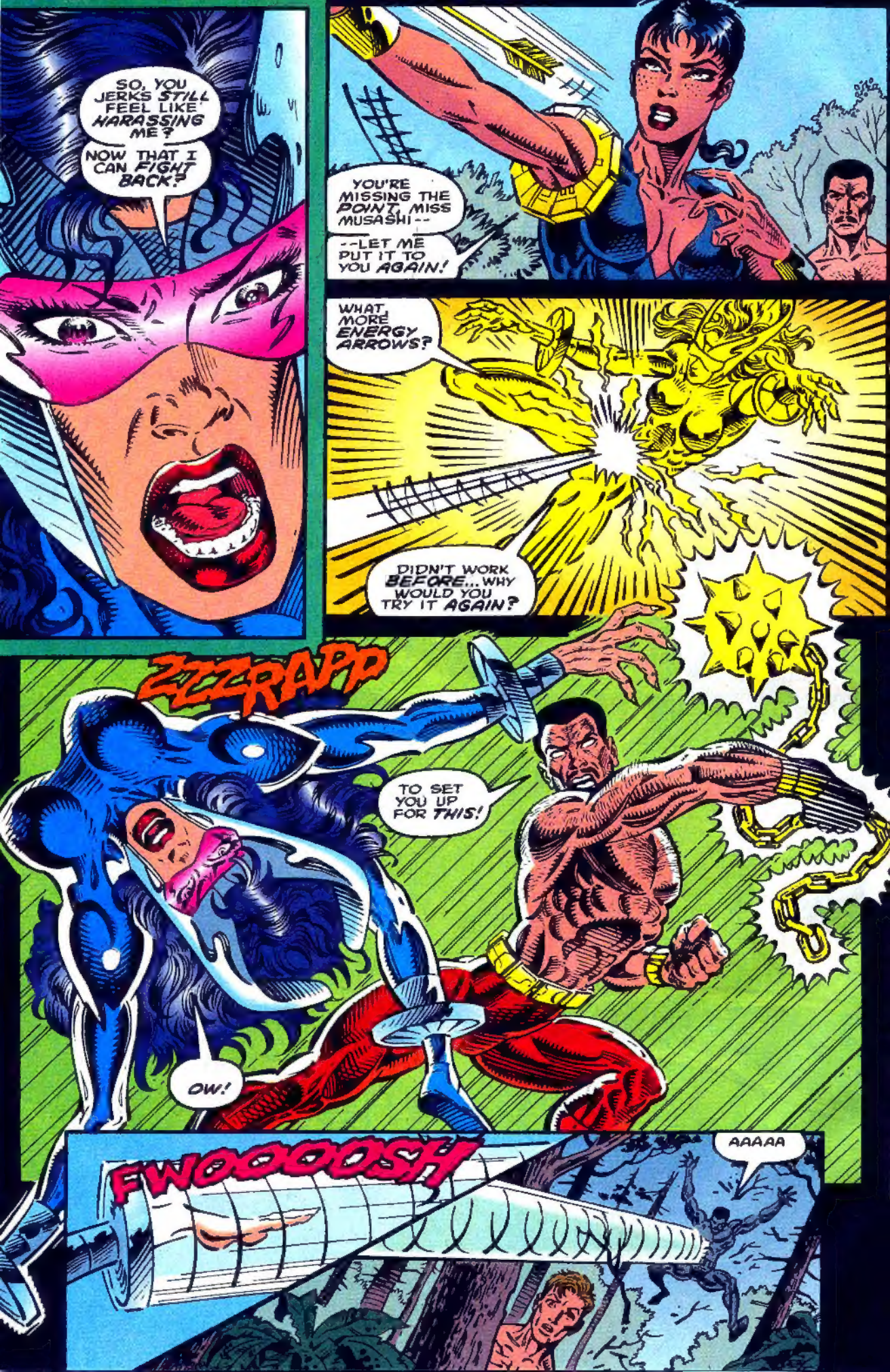
HOW ABOUT A DOUBLE-FISTED HYPERPUNCH?

WHUDUDU BRAKK!

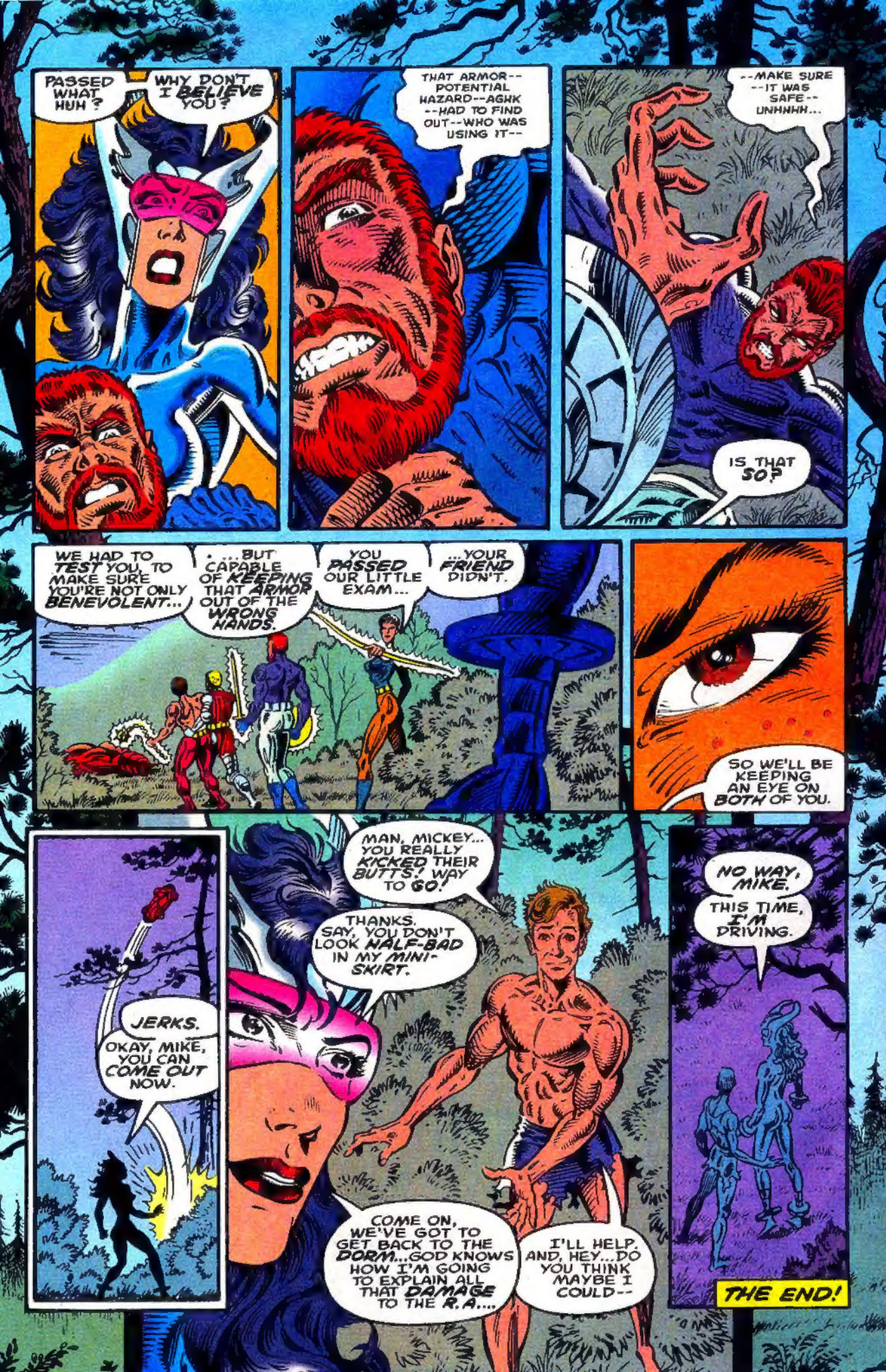
AAAAGH!

THAT IS WHAT WE DECIDED TO CALL IT, RIGHT?

UHH... YEAH.


SO, YOU JERKS STILL FEEL LIKE HARASSING ME?
NOW THAT I CAN FIGHT BACK?
YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT, MISS MUSASHI --
--LET ME PUT IT TO YOU AGAIN!
WHAT, MORE ENERGY ARROWS?
DIDN'T WORK BEFORE... WHY WOULD YOU TRY IT AGAIN?
ZZZRAPP
TO SET YOU UP FOR THIS!
OW!
FWOOOOSH
AAAAA

THIS IS NOT WORKING OUT--
THE WAY YOU PLANNED? TOO BAD!
HGARK
HNGG
I WOULDN'T DO THAT, BABE...
...YOU KNOW THOSE ARROWS WON'T HURT ME...
...BUT I'M HOLDING YOUR FRIEND REAL CLOSE...
...AND I'M NOT SURE THAT ME WON'T GET FRIED.
ARE YOU?
NOW... ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE, OR...?
FINE, YOU PASSED.


PASSED WHAT HUH?
WHY DON'T I BELIEVE YOU?
THAT ARMOR--POTENTIAL HAZARD--AGHK--HAD TO FIND OUT--WHO WAS USING IT--
--MAKE SURE--IT WAS SAFE--UNHHHH...
IS THAT SO?
WE HAD TO TEST YOU, TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT ONLY BENEVOLENT...
...BUT CAPABLE OF KEEPING THAT ARMOR OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS.
YOU PASSED OUR LITTLE EXAM...
...YOUR FRIEND DIDN'T.
SO WE'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON BOTH OF YOU.
MAN, MICKEY... YOU REALLY KICKED THEIR BUTTS! WAY TO GO!
THANKS. SAY, YOU DON'T LOOK HALF-BAD IN MY MINI-SKIRT.
JERKS.
OKAY, MIKE, YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE DORM...GOD KNOWS HOW I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN ALL THAT DAMAGE TO THE R.A....
I'LL HELP. AND, HEY...DO YOU THINK MAYBE I COULD--
NO WAY, MIKE. THIS TIME, I'M DRIVING.
THE END!